

kept an important black newspaper alive and running in a community that needed and wanted to be kept abreast of events in Black America. Through his work as the paper's publisher, he ensured that the community was aware of issues of importance to them and knowledgeable on the events of the day.

Through his ownership of the Amsterdam News, he worked to inform, educate, and activate a community which had suffered through difficult times and knew that to improve their stake in society they would have to be diligent on the issues. He did not stray from controversial topics or fail to express his opinions in the best interest of his community.

Following the riots in reaction to the 1977 blackout in New York, John was outraged by the reaction of the black community and readily expressed his criticism of young alienated Blacks and the lack of black leadership in properly addressing the situation and providing hope for future generations. John would later head up the Emergency Aid Commission to provide grants to local businesses harmed by the looting that ensued from the blackout. He impressed upon the community and its political and social leadership the importance of building up and supporting local businesses, rather than tearing them down and destroying their economic ability.

John Procope saw the value of investing in local businesses in our communities. He encouraged entrepreneurs to not only provide jobs to young people and the poor, but to provide opportunities to develop their skills and nurture their talents within the community. John and Ernesta, his wife, were strong advocates of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 and have continued to work in highly visible ways to address critical issues and to support humanitarian and cultural causes within the community.

Though John passed away at the age of 82, he led a full and rewarding life. He championed the good causes, fought the right fights, and demanded the most of himself and others. I knew him as an exceptional individual and a trusted friend. The attached obituary from the New York Times (July 18, 2005) highlights the life story and accomplishments of Mr. Procope.

JOHN L. PROCOPE, 82, PUBLISHER OF BLACK NEWSPAPER IN HARLEM, DIES

JULY 18, 2005.—John L. Procope, an entrepreneur and former publisher of The New York Amsterdam News, died on Friday. He was 82 and lived in Queens.

The cause was complications from pneumonia, according to E. G. Bowman Co., where he had served as chairman.

Mr. Procope, a graduate of Morgan State University, was a marketing and advertising executive at several companies before he joined a consortium that bought The Amsterdam News, a black newspaper based in Harlem, in 1971. He was one of six co-owners of the newspaper when he succeeded Clarence B. Jones as publisher in 1974.

After the 1977 blackout and the resultant looting, Mr. Procope broke the traditional restraint of vocal criticism against other prominent blacks.

He published a blistering front-page editorial that contended that there was a "massive vacuum of leadership in the black communities across the city."

The editorial said that since black leaders "hadn't exercised real leadership prior to the blackout, there was no established communication with our young people to use as a base for communication when the looters began."

He was appointed chairman of the seven-member Emergency Aid Commission, which disbursed about \$3 million in grants to businesses hurt by the looting.

In the late 1970's, two co-owners of The Amsterdam News tried to remove Mr. Procope as publisher, saying that business contracts his wife, Ernesta G. Procope, had with the city resulted in a conflict of interest—a contention the Procoptes denied.

Mr. Procope left the newspaper in 1982 to focus on E. G. Bowman, an insurance company that had been founded by his wife that was one of the first major African-American-owned businesses on Wall Street. The company's client list started with underserved Brooklyn homeowners but grew to include Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Procope and his wife were a driving force behind the creation of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 to help make insurance available to all residents of New York State. He and his wife were also highly visible in political and philanthropic circles.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Bloomfield, Conn.; and Jonelle Terrell of Manhattan.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS ON 37TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Special Olympics on the celebration of their 37th anniversary. When the Special Olympics was founded in 1968, individuals with developmental disabilities were all too often separated from their families, as well as segregated from their communities. My aunt, Eunice Shriver, was able to see the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities through her sister, and my Aunt, Rosemary. She was confident in her, and other disabled individuals', ability to participate in a meaningful way in their communities. By using sport as a vehicle and stage for demonstrating the dignity and capability of people with intellectual disabilities, Mrs. Shriver recognized the impact not only on the athletes themselves, but on the nation, as well. When the first International Special Olympic Games were held in 1968, 1,000 athletes participated from 26 states and Canada. Today, the Special Olympics serves more than 1.73 million athletes in 150 countries around the world.

The Special Olympics goes far beyond serving the athletic needs of their participants, and has recently developed an initiative to provide much needed medical health services titled "Healthy Athletes." Special Olympics "Healthy Athletes" improves access and health care for athletes at event-based health screenings, as well as makes referrals to local health practitioners when necessary. The data collected during these screenings also provides valuable information on the specific health needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. In fact, data from the 2003 Summer games showed that 30 percent of all athletes reported never having an eye exam and also referred 23 percent of athletes for follow-up by a physical therapist.

The benefit of the Special Olympics to athletes, families, volunteers, and coaches cannot

be adequately measured by statistics and numbers, but can be best represented by the recognition of the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities by our society. Congratulations to the Special Olympics on 37 years of extraordinary service.

THE 31ST BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 31st Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus. First, I would like to acknowledge Representative BILIRAKIS and Representative MALONEY for their efforts in bringing this issue to Congress.

Today, as you well know marks the Anniversary of a day 31 years ago when the people of Cyprus's lives changed. In 1974, Turkish forces invaded Northern Cyprus and seized control of more than one-third of the Island. Cyprus has for the past 31 years been divided by a 113 mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island. Therefore, Greek Cypriotes are prohibited from visiting the towns and communities where their families have lived for generations. In 1983, illegal occupiers of the island declared the territory to be an independent state and called it the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," a country which today remains shunned by the International Community and is not recognized by anyone besides Turkey. Currently there are over 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed and it continues to be one of the most militarized areas in the world.

I commend the United States Government, the European Union and the United Nations for encouraging a solution to the problem plaguing Cyprus. I sincerely hope that by taking a stance today, we can promote a renewed effort for direct negotiations and help the Greek Cypriotes get back what is rightfully theirs.

I would like to express my support of the Greek Cypriotes who have been disenfranchised for generations and continue to be mistreated today.

HONORING THE PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the contributions of a very special church in Louisiana's 7th Congressional District.

The Pleasant Green Baptist Church has been an important part of the Sulphur community and on July 31, 2005, Pleasant Green will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The church's current leader, Rev. James Gatewood, is a dedicated servant. His success and the church's strong presence are directly attributable to the faith, generosity, and contributions of the congregation. The church

has been an important part of the moral fabric of Southwest Louisiana for 100 years and I am confident Pleasant Green Baptist Church will continue to be a valuable community member for many years to come.

Today I want to recognize and congratulate the church and its congregation, for reaching this historic milestone.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 739, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL BUSINESS DAY IN COURT ACT OF 2005; H.R. 740, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005; H.R. 741, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF OSHA CITATIONS ACT OF 2005; H.R. 742, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL EMPLOYER ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 741, and H.R. 742.

Today, America's workers need the protections provided under the Occupational Safety and Health Act more than ever. Each year, 6,000 workers die in workplace-related accidents, and 50,000–60,000 people die from illnesses caused by their jobs. The protections in OSHA ensure what our Nation's workforce has fought for and deserves—a safe and healthy workplace.

Instead of strengthening these worker protections, the bills before us today are an attack on the very intent of these important safeguards.

The first bill, H.R. 739, excuses employers that fail to respond to OSHA citations within the 15-day deadline. The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC) already has the authority to review missed deadlines on a case-by-case basis. This change removes the incentive for employers to quickly respond to hazards. Meanwhile, the safety and health of workers hang in the balance.

H.R. 740 seeks to expand OSHRC to five members and require that all members be

lawyers. Since the Commission was established in 1970, it has been composed of three members and has benefited from the expertise of those not holding law degrees. This change inaccurately reflects the workload and responsibilities of OSHRC and unfairly excludes the contributions of members with strong backgrounds in safety and health.

H.R. 741 transfers the authority to bring cases to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court from the Secretary of Labor to OSHRC. This modification overturns a 1991 Supreme Court decision and undermines the Secretary's responsibility to enforce OSHA policies.

The biggest blow delivered by H.R. 742 requires OSHA to pay attorney's fees for every case it does not win, regardless of why the case lost or how well-justified it was. This places the burden of these cases squarely on the taxpayer and leaves America's workforce more vulnerable than ever.

The substitute amendment offered by Congressman GEORGE MILLER to raise the minimum wage has my full support. It is unacceptable that employees working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, for minimum wage earn only \$10,700 a year—\$3,400 below the poverty line for a family of three. American full-time, full-year workers should not be forced to raise their families in poverty. It is unfortunate that this amendment was not made in order by the Republican leadership, as this raise would have benefited over 11 million American workers and their families.

The hard-working men and women of this country deserve to be protected and safe in the workplace, Mr. Speaker. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote against these ill-conceived bills.

TRIBUTE TO BEN BALL OF MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to note the recent passing of a dear friend and great American, Ben Ball of Morehead City, North Carolina.

Born on October 14, 1956, Ben died too soon at the age of 48. Yet in those 48 years, he led a remarkable life.

After attending Wake Forest University, Ben went on to graduate from East Carolina Uni-

versity and then began a successful 25-year career in the real estate business. He was a member of the Carteret County Association of Realtors where he was named Realtor of the Year in 1981, 1992, and in 2002. The North Carolina Association of Realtors named him State Realtor of the Year in 2003, and he served as President of the North Carolina Association in 1992. From 1991 through this year he served as a State Director of the North Carolina Association of Realtors, and was active in the governmental and political process both in Raleigh and in Washington, DC.

In addition to his professional activities, Ben was a pillar of his community. He was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church in Morehead City, NC. He was a past President of the Rotary Club of Morehead City, and in 1997 was named Rotarian of the Year. Additionally, he had served for 5 years as Sponsorship Chairman of the Crystal Coast Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament, served as Past President of the Carteret County Division of the American Heart Association, Past President of the Morehead City Planning Board, and as Past Chairman of the Carteret County Republican Party. Further, he was a volunteer at West Carteret High School, and assisted "Toys for Tots" for the past 5 years to help secure over 500 bicycles for local needy children.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Ben many years ago, and knew him as a friend ever since. While Ben was prominent in the community, most importantly—like everyone else who first became acquainted with him through politics, or business, or through community activities—I came to know him not as a political friend, but just as a friend. Period.

He was unfailing supportive, uplifting, and caring toward the many people in his life. His being here on this earth made a difference in ways that we all know, and—I am positive—in countless ways that we will never know.

In times such as this, there are no words that can fill the void in the hearts of his friends and loved ones. While he is now in the loving arms of God, we who are still here miss him.

Ben is survived by his wife, Debbie Carpenter Ball, by his sister Anne Roberts Ball, and by his daughters Debra Kreth Ball and Laura Ryan Ball. They are all in my thoughts and prayers.